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6 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Dr. John A. Wheeler

1. At 1430 today I called Dr. Wheeler at Princeton, New Jersey (12300) to thank him for his interest in possible affiliation as a consultant in the CIA attack on the "flying saucer" problem. I told him we regretted that the urgency of his current work for AEC (MATTERHORN) prevented association at this time.

2. Dr. Wheeler stated that he might not be able to actively assist even after March 1953 because of his work on "particle research". However, he would be pleased at any time to discuss the matter briefly. He mentioned two foreign nationals who were currently outstanding in related fields. One was Dr. Chapman, a British subject who is an authority on the aurorae and its associated "mysterious problems" of "ion path" and "magnetic focussing". Dr. O'Day (Director of Research at Cambridge, Massachusetts USAF Research Center) might be able to suggest U. S. subjects in this field. It appears that the Air Force has been studying upper atmospheric phenomena there with considerable vigor. Dr. Chapman's believed to be currently at Cambridge University, England.

3. Another suggestion was Dr. Hannes Alfven, an "original thinker and outstanding researcher". He has written "Cosmological Electrodynamics", Oxford University Press. Dr. Wheeler thought some method of using one or both of these men might be devised through a "cut out", assuming the problem continued for an appreciable length of time and scientific attack was warranted.

F. C. DURANT

B-3

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